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As Erie County marks deadliest days, statewide toll jumps to over 10,000

Sharon Cantillon/Buffalo News

Registered nurse Connie Mehok gets suited up in protective gear before entering one of the ICU areas at the Catholic Health Covid-19 Treatment Facility at St. Joseph Campus in Cheektowaga. Helping Mehok put on her gown is registered nurse Francine Perkins. *To see more faces on the front line, go to the Picture Page, C5.*

County numbers include fatalities not confirmed earlier

By Aaron Besecker
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Monday and Tuesday became Erie County's deadliest days so far during the Covid-19 pandemic.

With 40 deaths announced over the two days, Erie County's death toll reached 101 during the outbreak as of Tuesday evening. *Page C3*

Tuesday's report of 28 deaths followed Monday's dozen fatalities. County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz, in a Twitter post referencing the county Health Department, said the death toll "went up so much from 2 days ago because @ECDOH received confirmation of 31 deaths that occurred since 4/10 that we had not known about previously."

Nursing home residents remain among the most vulnerable.

After last week's death of a resident at Garden Gate Health Care Facility in Cheektowaga and the subsequent outcry from her family, the facility's owner, the McGuire Group, released information about Covid-19 cases at three of its facilities.

Erie County added 69 confirmed cases of Covid-19 as of Tuesday evening, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 1,730. *Page C3*

The statewide death toll jumped by more than 3,700 as officials said they were now including people who had never tested positive for the virus but were presumed to have died of it. The new numbers appeared to increase the overall U.S. death count by 17% to more than 26,000. *Page A6*

As for local treatment for the disease, seriously ill patients in area hospitals will soon be able to receive experimental treatments that involve antibody infusions from the blood of individuals who have recovered from Covid-19. *Page C1*

Businesses are still looking for ways to make it through the steep economic downturn. Pegula Sports and Entertainment on Tuesday announced layoffs, furloughs and pay cuts. *Page C1*

Meanwhile, shortcomings in two emergency federal stimulus programs are frustrating local entrepreneurs as they try to rescue their small businesses. *Page C4*

Coverage on Pages A4 to A9, A12, B1, and C1 to C4

Woman dies of Covid-19 at Garden Gate nursing home; 42 residents test positive

By Lou Michel
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

The grieving family of 77-year-old Ellen E. Booker, who died of Covid-19 on Friday in a Cheektowaga nursing home, called on the state Health Department to publicly identify nursing homes where the virus has spread and disclose the number of cases at each facility.

Under pressure from the family and media, the McGuire Group on Tuesday released the number of novel coronavirus cases at Garden Gate Health Care Facility, where Booker lived, and at two of its other local nursing homes that have reported cases.

Forty-two residents are infected with the virus at Garden Gate, 46 at Harris Hill and 23 at Seneca Health Care Center. The McGuire Group reported no cases at its Autumn View Health Care Facility or Northgate Health Care Facility.

State officials also appear poised to reverse their policy of not identifying nursing homes where Covid-19 cases have occurred.

The officials indicated Tuesday that they are developing a plan to publicly release the names of those nursing homes. But details of when and how that will happen were not released.

As of Tuesday, 2,200 nursing home residents across the state have died from the virus, an increase of more than 750 since Booker died.

The state Health Department also reported 346 nursing homes have a total of 5,894 coronavirus cases. As of last Friday, 319 facilities had a total of 4,630 cases.

If New York State identifies nursing homes with Covid-19 cases,

See **Death** on Page A7

WNY totals*

2,168	114
Number of positive tests	Number of deaths

• Erie County	1,730
• Niagara	216
• Genesee	77
• Wyoming	36
• Orleans	31
• Allegany	28
• Cattaraugus	26
• Chautauqua	24

** Numbers as of 9 p.m. Tuesday*

Some nations in Europe start relaxing rules on lockdowns

By Patrick Kingsley
NEW YORK TIMES

BERLIN – Slowly, tentatively, a handful of European countries began lifting constraints on daily life this week for the first time since the start of the coronavirus crisis, providing an early litmus test of whether Western democracies can gingerly restart their economies and restore basic freedoms without reviving the spread of the disease.

On Tuesday, Italy, the epicenter of Europe's crisis, reopened some bookshops and children's clothing stores. Spain allowed workers to return to factories and construction sites, despite a daily death toll that remains over 500. Austria allowed thousands of hardware and home improvement stores to reopen, as long as workers and customers wore masks.

In Denmark, elementary schoolteachers readied classrooms so young children could return to school on Wednesday, while in the Czech Republic, a restless public relished the reopening of sports centers and some shops.

When Lukas Zachoval, a sales manager in the Czech Republic, lost

See **Europe** on Page A12

Related: We're not alone

The U.S.and many other nations face a prolonged recovery period from this pandemic. *Page A4*

OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING: *25 Years Later*

How a grieving husband and son coped after McVeigh's terrorist attack

By Lou Michel
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Sharon Cantillon/Buffalo News

Clint Seidl, 32, holds a photo of him and his mother, Kathy, at her grave. Seidl was 7 when his mother died.

Glenn Seidl was 100 miles from Oklahoma City the morning of April 19, 1995, but he thought he heard an explosion.

"Being a plumber, I thought it was natural gas," Seidl recalled.

He had no idea Pendleton native Timothy J. McVeigh had just carried out the nation's worst domestic terrorist attack by an American citizen. McVeigh's truck bomb had ripped apart the nine-story Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

Seidl's wife Kathy worked on the top floor for the Secret Service.

A deputy arrived at the job site and informed Seidl he needed to pick up his son from school, but he didn't ex-

See **Bombing** on Page A3

INDEX

Business	C4	Crossword	B5, B6	Lotteries	C2	Picture Page	C5
City & Region	C1	Gusto Extra	C10	Notebook	C2	Scoreboard	B4
Classified	B5	Horoscope	C9	Obituaries	C6	Sports	B1
Comics	C8	Letters	A11	Opinion	A10	Television	C7

WEATHER

Sunny, windy, colder. High 41, low 26. Details on Page C10

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